N.Y. DAILY NEWS
7/11/71 PAGE 76

Sirhan Items Mishandled?

Los Angeles, July 10 (UPI)—Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph A. Busch Jr. disclosed today that he believes that key evidence used to convict Sirhan B. Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert Kennedy was tampered with.

Busch said his office was "terribly concerned" and had launched an investigation into "evidence of exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons" in violation of a court order.

Bullets t aken from Kennedy's body and Sirhan's gun apparently were handled by unauthorized persons, Busch said.

Sirhan, 27, a slim dark-haired Jordanian immigrant, was sentenced to death after a four-month trial in 1969. His appeals are pending.